

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) A pile compartment for flat postal articles in an upright position, ~~having comprising~~ a pile bottom (7) and a pile wall (6) perpendicular thereto, on which the postal articles (4) rest in the pile compartment (5), and having a pile support (8) which can be displaced along the pile wall (6) in an approximately horizontal piling direction, holding the pile (11), the pile bottom (7) being at least partly provided with a bottom profile and the pile support (8) being designed such that it meshes with the bottom profile via its surface sliding on the pile bottom (7), ~~characterized~~ and wherein that the pile support (8) can be lowered downward into the plane of the pile bottom (7) at the end of the pile compartment (5), in such a way that it forms a bridge over a gap between the downstream terminating edge of the pile bottom (7) and the upstream edge of a supporting surface (12) which follows on downstream for the pile (11).
2. (currently amended) The pile compartment ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pile support (8) can be pivoted downward in the piling direction into the plane of the pile bottom (7) at the end of the pile compartment (5).
3. (currently amended) The pile compartment ~~as claimed~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pile support (8) that can be lowered is moved vertically after the pile bottom (7) and, at its upper edge, has a part (9) aligned approximately parallel to the pile bottom (7) when it is lowered, in order to bridge the gap between the pile bottom (7) and the following supporting surface (12), in that the terminating edge (15) of the pile bottom (7) located in the piling direction is also profiled, and the surface (16) of the pile support (8)

which faces the profiled terminating edge ~~(15)~~ of the pile bottom ~~(7)~~ as it is moved vertically is profiled in such a way that it meshes with the profiled terminating edge ~~(15)~~ of the pile bottom ~~(7)~~ as it moves down.

4. (currently amended) The pile compartment ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pile support ~~(8)~~ can be pivoted perpendicularly with respect to the piling direction in order to move vertically in the plane of the pile bottom ~~(7)~~.
5. (currently amended) The pile compartment ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pile bottom ~~(7)~~ has a sawtooth profile, the steep flanks being oriented toward the pile wall ~~(6)~~.
6. (currently amended) The pile compartment ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 3, characterized in that the surface of that part ~~(9)~~ of the pile support ~~(8)~~ which is aligned approximately parallel to the pile bottom ~~(7)~~ and on which the postal articles ~~(1)~~ of the pile ~~(11)~~ slide has the same surface profile as the pile bottom ~~(7)~~.